

CLAIMS

What is claimed is new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

1. A light switch comprising:
 - a) a housing;
 - b) a lighting element positioned within the housing;
 - c) means for detecting a level of illumination surrounding said light switch;
and
 - d) means for illuminating said lighting element upon determining the detected level of illumination is below a predetermined value thereby aiding in locating said light switch in a room illuminated below a predetermined level.
2. The light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for illuminating said lighting element is a light sensor.

3. The light switch as recited in claim 2, further comprising means for comparing said level of light sensed by said sensor with a threshold value, wherein upon said level of light being below said threshold value, said lighting element is illuminated.

4. The light switch as recited in claim 1, wherein said housing is at least one of translucent and transparent for allowing light emitted from said lighting element to pass freely therethrough.

5. An electrical outlet comprising:

- a) a receptacle having a face plate;
- b) at least one lighting element positioned around the periphery of said face plate; and
- c) means for detecting a level of illumination surrounding said electrical outlet; and
- d) means for illuminating said at least one lighting element upon determining the detected level of illumination is below a predetermined value thereby aiding in locating said electrical outlet in a room illuminated below a predetermined level.

6. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 5, wherein said means for illuminating said lighting element is a light sensor.

7. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 6, further comprising means for comparing said level of light sensed by said light sensor with a threshold value, wherein upon said level of light being below said threshold value, said lighting element is illuminated.

8. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 5, wherein said face plate is at least one of translucent and transparent for allowing light emitted from said at least one lighting element to pass freely therethrough.

9. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 5, further comprising a second lighting element positioned around a periphery of said first lighting element, said second lighting element being selectively illuminable.

10. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 9, further comprising a load sensor for sensing the voltage of a load drawn from an input voltage.

11. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 10, further comprising means for comparing said sensed load value with a threshold value for determining the capacity of a circuit.

12. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 11, further comprising a microprocessor connected to said load comparing means, wherein, upon said load comparing means detecting said load value is less than said threshold value, said microprocessor directs a switch to contact a first lead extending from said first lighting element for illumination thereof and, upon said load comparing means detecting said load value is greater than said threshold value, said microprocessor directs said switch to contact a second lead extending from said second lighting element for illumination thereof.

13. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 12, wherein a color of light emitted from said first lighting element is different color than light emitted from said second lighting element.

14. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 9, further comprising means for detecting if a plug has been received by said electrical outlet.

15. The electrical outlet as recited in claim 14, wherein said first lighting element is caused to illuminate upon detecting a plug being received by said electrical outlet and said second lighting element is caused to illuminate upon detecting a plug is not being received by said electrical outlet.